

Paper for Consideration by ENCWG

S-63 Standard Structure for the README.TXT file

Submitted by:	PRIMAR and IC-ENC
Executive Summary:	Proposal of guidance on a standard structure for the content of the README.TXT file.
Related Documents:	S-63 1.2.0
Related Projects:	

Introduction / Background

At ENCWG3 the RENCs were given the following action:

Action 9: Produce guidance on a standard structure for the content of the readme.txt file (to be added to S-63).

The RENCs have discussed the action and this document proposes a guidance to be included in S-63.

Analysis

Based on discussions at ENCWG3 meeting it was identified the need to incorporate guidance on a standard structure for the content of the README.TXT file. During discussions between the RENCs a common understanding of this structure has been reached, and the following changes to chapter 6.6 (The S-57 Readme File (README.TXT)) in S-63 are proposed:

1. Amend the text in the 1st paragraph
2. Replace the listed inclusion of information

The 2 last paragraphs are unchanged.

As a result, S-63 6.6 would be described like this:

6.6 The S-57 Readme File (README.TXT)

Data Servers, RENCs and ENC producers currently use the README.TXT to encode important information that relates to their services. The structure and content of the file should be as follows:

SECTION 1 Important General Information

Information relevant to all ENC users such as ECDIS, Temporary and Preliminary Information, Overlapping policy descriptions and Disclaimers. Other information regarded as important may also be added.

SECTION 2 HOs information

Information provided by individual producing agencies providing specific copyright statements and information about their ENCs.

SECTION 3 Withdrawn Cells

Overview of ENC cells which have been removed from the service due to unforeseen events. ENCs being cancelled as part of producers normal ENC management routines should not be included.

SECTION 4 Miscellaneous Information

Placeholder for additional information not fitting in the other sections.

~~This information can include the following:~~

- ~~1. General Service information provided by the Data Server.~~
- ~~2. Specific information provided by RENCs and individual ENC producers concerning their ENC data.~~

~~3. Any cautionary information about specific ENC data, such as overlapping ENC coverage or known issues with specific cells.~~

Although the inclusion of the README.TXT file is not mandated in the S-57 Product Specification it has become an important source of information in all commercial ENC services, especially given the increasing amount of ENCs available from many different producer nations.

With this in mind it is strongly recommended that Data Client systems are able to display this file on demand. Since this file is relatively unknown to users it would be useful for the Data Client system to display when installing ENC data to forcibly bring it to their attention.

Conclusions

A guidance on a standard structure for the content of the README.TXT file is proposed.

Action Required of ENCWG

The ENCWG is invited to:

Note this paper and discuss if the proposal is acceptable.